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CLASSIFICATION SECRET

SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

TOPIC Military Information from Frankfurt/Oder

EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 9 October 1953

REFERENCES

PAGES 4 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

25X1

REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED  
Information

25X1

1. On 23 September 1953, the Ziethen Kaserne in Frankfurt/Oder was occupied by about 1,000 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank and artillery insignia and by uniformed women. [redacted] the strength of the occupation at the installation had been increased by arrivals who, however, were not observed. Two canvas-covered T-34/85 tanks and 5 light armored scout cars were in the barracks yard. About 50 soldiers received training on 6 x 82-mm mortars in the area diagonally across from the barracks installation northeast of the water tower. About 20 soldiers practiced with two mortars of either 120-mm or 160-mm caliber in the area west of the barracks installation. Thirty soldiers received telephone training there. On 23 September, 4 T-34/85 tanks and 2 light armored scout cars were in the barracks yard and about 20 soldiers equipped with 2 x 120-mm mortars left the installation. A large number of personnel seen at the windows had closely cropped hair. [redacted]

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2. On 23 September, the Eichhorn Kaserne was occupied by about 1,000 to 1,500 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with motor transport insignia and artillery insignia, a small number of tank insignia and individual black-bordered crimson epaulets. [redacted] the strength of the occupation at the installation had decreased. On 19 September, soldiers were seen policing their quarters and preparing their cots and about 20 soldiers were loading cots on six trucks [redacted]

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25X1

3. At about 6:30 a.m. on 16 September, between 250 and 300 soldiers wearing blue-bordered black epaulets including some with signal insignia who were armed with carbines or submachine guns and carried rolled up blankets arrived at the passenger railroad station from Kuestrin-Kietz. Trucks [redacted]

25X1

[redacted] from the Eichhorn Kaserne took the soldiers to this installation. On 17 September, about 100 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets, carrying baggage and armed with submachine guns and several soldiers with a crossbeam on their epaulets left the Eichhorn Kaserne for the railroad station and, at 5:45 a.m., departed with the express in the direction of Berlin. About 50 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets and carrying small baggage boarded the passenger train for Cottbus at about 5:30 a.m. on 20 September. About 40 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets including some with black-bordered black epaulets departed from Frankfurt/Oder in

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

SECRET

- 2 -

25X1

the direction of Fuerstenwalde on the express train at about 5:45 a.m. on 21 September. At about 5:30 a.m. on 22 September, about 100 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets and about 20 uniformed women wearing red-bordered black epaulets carrying small baggage departed toward Cottbus on the passenger train. About 150 soldiers were in the waiting rooms of the railroad station on 22 September. They wore red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia and artillery insignia, black-bordered crimson epaulets, black-bordered green and black-bordered blue epaulets.<sup>2</sup>

4. On 13 September, the Buelow Kaserne was occupied by about 250 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia. From 3 to 13 September, there was apparently no training activity at the installation. Ten tanks which, [redacted] were T-34 tanks, 2 BA-64 armored scout cars, 1 half-track armored personnel carrier [redacted] and 1 x 6-wheel armored personnel carrier [redacted] were in the barracks area.

25X1

5. On 13 September, the Artillerie Kaserne was occupied by about 400 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets mostly with artillery insignia. No training activity was noticed. At about 3 p.m. on 13 September, about 25 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia marched to the railroad station from the barracks installation.

25X1

6. From 14 to 18 September [redacted] the Koch depot on Kuhnen Strasse in Frankfurt/Oder issued new furniture to the units in Frankfurt/Oder, Fuerstenwalde, Bad Saarow, Lieberose and Boeskow and in return received old furniture in need of repair. [redacted] the old furniture would be repaired by the cabinet-maker's shop of the Koch depot. It was rumored that beginning 1 January 1954, the GDR would no longer pay any reparations to the USSR and the occupation army and that the Soviet Army would pay for the billeting equipment in, and the maintenance of, the barracks installations. Units stationed in Fuerstenwalde sent trucks [redacted]

25X1

[redacted] to pick up furniture at the Koch depot for installation No 40 on 16 September. Lieutenant Colonel Rot (Tad) was officer in charge acting for Installation No 40. Trucks [redacted]

[redacted] on the same day, picked up furniture for Installation No 42.

7. On 14 September, soldiers constructed dummy houses, trenches and obstacles at the former Fuchsbusch field hospital west of Markendorf on the Frankfurt/Oder-Muellrose road. [redacted] a training area for the winter training of units stationed in Frankfurt/Oder was under construction there.

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8. On 22 September, the Artillerie Kaserne was occupied by about 600 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets. No training activity was performed in the barracks area from 14 to 22 September.<sup>3</sup>

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9. On 22 September, the Buelow Kaserne was occupied by about 400 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets. No training activity except athletics was performed. Ten 57-mm AT guns and 10 x 76-mm AT guns were in the barracks yard.<sup>1</sup> On 22 September the Eichhorn Kaserne was occupied by about 350 soldiers wearing black-bordered crimson epaulets. There was no training activity. On 16 September, about 30 soldiers wearing black-bordered crimson epaulets equipped with submachine guns and four practice targets entered the installation coming from the direction of the Riesberge (hills).<sup>2</sup>

SECRET

25X1

SECRET/

- 3 -

10. On 22 September, the Hindenburg Kaserne was occupied by about 250 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets. There was no training activity in the barracks area during the period under review.
11. On 22 September, the Horn Kaserne was occupied by about 250 soldiers. There was no training activity during the period under review. About 100 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets policed the installation on 17 September.
12. On 22 September, the Ziethen Kaserne was occupied. No training activity except athletics was observed. Three T-34 tanks were in front of the ordnance shop.<sup>1</sup>
13. On 26 September, the Artillerie Kaserne was occupied by about 300 soldiers. About 35 motor vehicles, 12 x 85-mm AA guns, 4 x 76.2-mm guns, 2 x 20-mm AA guns, 3 searchlights and about 1,000 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets had arrived on 19 September. About 20 trucks [redacted] 8 x 85-mm AA guns, 1 searchlight and about 500 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets left the installation on 26 September.<sup>3</sup> 25X1
14. On 1 September, 6 JS-II tanks [redacted] and SP gun [redacted] left the Horn Kaserne in the direction of Rosengarten. On 7 September, 3 JS-II tanks and 2 SU-249 SP guns were unloaded at the railroad station and moved to the Horn Kaserne. On 1 September, 7 T-34 tanks [redacted] and 7 trucks towing 76-mm AT guns [redacted] left the Buelow Kaserne toward the Autobahn. 25X1
15. Four trucks towing 120-mm mortars, 4 trucks towing 76-mm AT guns [redacted] and 5 T-34 tanks [redacted] left the Ziethen Kaserne toward the Markendorf troop training grounds. Soldiers performed service of the piece drill in the barracks yard.<sup>1</sup> 25X1
16. On 3 September, 8 trucks [redacted] towing 85-mm AA guns, 14 trucks [redacted] towing 37-mm AA guns, and 3 trucks [redacted] with ammunition and equipment entered the Artillerie Kaserne. 25X1
17. On 3 September, about 450 soldiers and 80 officers were unloaded at the siding of the Hofbauer Kaserne.<sup>2</sup> On 7 September, 24 JS-II tanks and SU-249 SP guns [redacted] and 14 T-34 tanks [redacted] were seen on the Autobahn between Jakobsdorf and Berkenbrueck.<sup>4</sup> 25X1
1. Comment. The information leaves the following possibilities for the occupation of the barracks installations mentioned:

Ziethen Kaserne. The weapons mentioned tend to indicate that elements of a mechanized regiment of the 7th Gds Mecz Div are quartered in the barracks installation which, according to observations prior to the beginning of the summer training, had been believed to quarter the unidentified guards howitzer artillery regiment, the 288th Gds AAA Regt and a minor tank repair shop of the division. It cannot yet be determined whether a major number of recruits (see Comment 2) is with the above-mentioned unit, or whether recruits were only temporarily quartered at this installation. 25X1

Buelow Kaserne. The installation probably quarters minor elements of a mechanized regiment which [redacted] is the 25th Gds Mecz Regt of the division mentioned. The 14 T-34 tanks seen on the Autobahn on 7 September also belong to 25X1 this regiment.

SECRET/

SECRET/

- 4 -

25X1

Horn Kaserne. The barracks installation is believed to still quarter units of the 84th Gds Div Tank SP Regt of the division. The JS tanks and the SP guns seen on the Autobahn also belong to the regiment.

Hindenburg Kaserne. The 57th Gds Tank Regt of the division cannot be confirmed in this installation. There is, however, no occasion for believing that another unit should be quartered there.

2. Comment. The previous occupation of Eichhorn Kaserne consisted of a Kommandatura and a guard unit in the strength of about 400 men who were probably still there until late September. Like the Hofbauer Kaserne, the installation is apparently used as a processing camp for arriving recruits as it had been in 1952. These recruits probably arrived in small groups and without employment of whole trains of personnel in Frankfurt/Oder since mid-September. There is some reason for believing that these trains preceded the personnel exchange action proper which will probably only begin after the completion of the large fall maneuvers.

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3. Comment. On 19 September, the Artillerie Kaserne which is still believed occupied by units of the 32d AAA Div was occupied by elements of the division which moved to Frankfurt/Oder from Lustrow in three trains from 17 to 19 September. It cannot yet be determined whether units of the division again left the installation for possible practices on 26 September.

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4. Comment. The two Lieutenant Colonels Gnizozub and Rut were previously reported as Kech employees.

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